

DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND PERMITS  
**CITY OF NEW ORLEANS**

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**Office Policy Regarding Historic Structures**

Date: November 1, 2011

In accordance with the NFIP regulations at 44 CFR 60.3 and information in the NFIP Floodplain Management Bulletin Historic Structures (FEMA p-467-2) the City of New Orleans will exempt "Historic Structures" from the substantial improvement and substantial damage requirements under the definition of "substantial improvement".

To qualify for this exemption, property owners **must** apply for and receive approval from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) stating that the structure is and will continue to be a "historic structure" (including "contributing" to a historical district). Please contact the Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation at 225-342-0695.

**FURTHERMORE**, section 3409 of the **INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE 2009**, shall apply:

**INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE 2009  
SECTION 3409 HISTORIC BUILDINGS**

**3409.1 Historic buildings.** The provisions of this code relating to the construction, repair, alteration, addition, restoration and movement of structure and change of occupancy **shall not be mandatory** for historic buildings where such buildings are judged by the building official to not constitute a distinct life safety hazard.

**3409.2 FLOOD HAZARD AREAS.** Within flood hazard areas established in accordance with Section 1612.3 where the work proposed constitutes substantial improvement as defined in Section 1612.2 the building shall be brought into compliance with Section 1612.

**EXCEPTION: Historic buildings that are:**

1. Listed or preliminarily determined to be eligible for listing in the National register of Historic Places.
2. Determined by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Interior as contributing to the historical significance of a registered historic district or a district preliminarily determined to qualify as an historic district; or
3. Designated as historic under a state or local historic preservation program that is approved by the Department of Interior.

Any exterior renovation will continue to require approval from the Historic District Landmarks Commission or the Vieux Carre Commission.

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